

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14-21 and 29-36 are pending.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 14-21 and 29-36 are allowed.

The Examiner's Note regarding claim 34 is acknowledged. Claim 34 has been amended accordingly.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Amano, U.S. Patent 5,371,437.

Claims 23-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Yutaka, JP 2000-038166.


In order to attain a speedy conclusion to the prosecution of the instant application, claims 22-28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. It is understood that the canceled claims can be pursued in a subsequent application during the pendency of the instant application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 650-326-2400 in order to clarify any matters.

Respectfully submitted,


George B. F. Yee
Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
GBFY:cmm
60200943 v1